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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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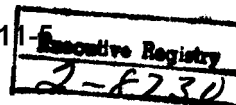
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SECRET



3 May 1952

Mr. Gardner Cowles
President, Cowles Magazines, Inc.
488 Madison Avenue
New York 22, New York

Dear Mike:

I can't say that I am happy over your letter of May first because as you know we feel here that the less said about CIA the better for our work. However, I can't stop people writing articles and if someone is going to do it, I would rather it be by LOOK by John Gunther than most anybody else.

Consequently, Allen and I and our other executives will give him as much help as we possibly can within the limit of reasonable security. In return for this, I trust that you will let us check the article before publication to be sure that none of us has made an over-eager response to John's nice personality.

My affectionate regards to Fleur and yourself.

Faithfully,

A rectangular box with a black border, used to redact the signature of Walter B. Smith.

STAT

Walter B. Smith
Director

WBS/c

2 cc--reading

official

1 cc--retained in O/DCI w/ basic

Look • Quick

COWLES MAGAZINES, INC., LOOK BUILDING, 488 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK 22, N.Y.
GARDNER COWLES, President

May 1, 1952

Dear Bedell,

I am anxious to do an article in LOOK on the present status of C. I. A. I have in mind a rather thorough piece explaining how C. I. A. functions, something about the half dozen most important men in the organization, and some appraisal as to the quality of its work.

After a good deal of thought, I finally selected John Gunther to write this article. I believe you know him. He is just about as competent a reporter and writer as anyone available. I think he will do a fair, accurate and comprehensive job.

Gunther plans to go to Washington the week of May 12, to get started on this article. He will be writing you directly for an appointment. I have told him that I am sure that you and Allen Dulles and the other chief executives of C. I. A. will cooperate with him completely. Any help you can give him will be much appreciated by me.

Sincerely,



General Walter Bedell Smith
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 "E" Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.